

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

ROKOSCH

GRANDSTAFF

THOMPSON

CHILCOTT

DRISCOLL

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....July 13, 2007

Members Present.....Commissioner Jim Rokosch,  
Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff, Commissioner Greg Chilcott and Commissioner  
Kathleen Driscoll

Minutes: Beth Farwell

Commissioner Thompson attended the NACo National Conference in Richmond, VA.

The Board met to discuss and make a decision on the approval of the Western Montana Mental Health Contract (Riverfront Counseling) renewal. Present were Lt. Cathy Powell, Administrative Director Skip Rosenthal, County Attorney General George Corn, Deputy County Attorney Karen Mahar and members of the Western Montana Mental Health Center; Alisa Webber, Kim Miller, and Fred Huskey.

Commissioner Rokosch called the meeting to order. Skip reviewed the contract details with the Board. The contract expired June 30, 2007. Skip explained the contract reflects the county is meeting the mental health needs for the Detention Center (both adult and juvenile) proactively.

Karen stated any private insurance held by the inmates, will be billed first before the contract will pay. Western Montana Mental Health Center has been providing care under the contract. Ravalli County funding for the Mental Health program has a Federal funding match. Commissioner Driscoll stated the use of these funds has to be maximized, and if the system is in place, you will save lots of money. George Corn stated we have medieval ways to deal with mental health in this state. The State leaves it up to the counties to deal with mental illness. George felt the contract presented here today is excellent, and without this contract, we are left hanging in the wind. He stated the county needs it for liability purposes and it is the responsibility of elected officials to make sure these types of services are in place. George also felt the county needs a better way to treat the people in the community and this contract is step in that direction. Commissioner

Driscoll asked if impact fees could address the growth that is causing the increase in mental health needs. Brief discussion followed.

Fred stated Western Montana Mental Health Center has two crisis centers in Missoula. This will be a 'godsend' to have that availability here. There are three crisis stabilization beds in Ravalli County. Utilization of those beds would be a tremendous help for the inmates.

Commissioner Driscoll requested background information for Room 301. Karen replied Marcus Daly Hospital is not a mental health facility. They do not have a psychiatrist on staff. Room 301 is a bed for mental health patients to be held and supervised until additional help can be obtained.

Skip recapped the contract details. He stated the contract is the same as in the past however; there is an increase to the requested amount of \$25,000 due to growth. Skip said the choice would be to either agree to the additional \$25,000 or up the match the County contribution funds to \$1.00 per person which works out to be the same amount.

Karen stated Mental Health has their own budgeting line. The 43 cents is a budget contribution to the center. Commissioner Chilcott asked what the county funded last year. Skip stated they funded \$6,248 for mental health commitments last year. Brief discussion followed regarding funding.

Lt. Powell stated the most important thing is they have been able to get mental health care right away.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated she has questions regarding funding for this contract that she would like to discuss with Skip. Skip recommended a continuation of this meeting in order to bring the new Commissioners up to date with the funding options. The Board agreed to continue the meeting at a later date.

**Commissioner Grandstaff made a motion to continue the meeting until July 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**

The Board met with Vicky Varichak to discuss liaison issues for DEC (Drug Endangered Coalition) and other groups. Vicky gave an update to the Board of the DEC group that is involved to further the cause of drug abuse prevention. Vicky stated these groups feel they are disconnected from the county. She is here to volunteer her services to be a liaison between the county and these groups. 80% of women incarcerated have drug and alcohol addictions, 60% or greater have children. Those children are drug endangered. Commissioner Driscoll visited the women's prison. She understands the challenges these groups face. She suggested Vicky contact Carl Ebly to help set up a system to address some of these challenges.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he is in favor of supporting Vicky to be a liaison. Commissioner Grandstaff concurs with Commissioner Chilcott. Commissioner Driscoll

gave a background of possible funding options. Commissioner Rokosch stated he needs to be educated on the various programs Vicky is trying to address and how the county interfaces with these groups. He believes it would be beneficial to have Vicky be a liaison.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he is comfortable having Vicky come in and bring forth information to the Board; however he is not comfortable granting any authority. Commissioner Driscoll recommended Vicky to go to the State and listen for certain areas that are releasing funds. She urged Vicky to do an overview of where the funding is coming from and apply for those funds. Vicky replied part of the problem is the state has money to provide services but they do not release those funds for management.

Commissioner Rokosch stated there is a need for a representative to serve as a clearing house for someone who has needs, i.e., someone to let these people know where they can go to get the help they need. Vicky stated they do have the Meth Program which is successful. The big problem now is "Pharm" parties. The kids steal pharmaceutical drugs, throw them in a big bowl and take whatever they grab out of the bowl. They are trying to expand the scope of the Meth program to address this issue. Vicky gave a description of how they intend to expand the program to the Board.

Vicky stated she will provide a list of all these organizations for the Board. Commissioner Rokosch stated he would like to see a break down of the different organizations, how they are funded, and what services they provide. Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles stated Kids First is developing 'a map' of all the organizations and services they provide which should be helpful to Vicky. Vicky stated she can come back to the Board after she has gathered this information. The Board agreed.

The Board met with Glenda Wiles for administrative matters (discussion of calendaring, conference calling etc.).

The Board met with Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Ron Nicholas to amend the Resolution for Open Burning. The amendment would not allow the use of pyrotechnics (fireworks). **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to adopt Resolution No.2173; with this amendment. Commissioner Grandstaff seconded the motion and all voted "aye".**

Road Supervisor Dave Ohnstad brought Mr. Johnstone in to visit with the Board relative to the Lost Horse Rock Quarry. Some discussion occurred whether Mr. Johnstone should be placed on the agenda as this is matter of significant public interest. It was noted a public meeting for this issue is set for July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Johnstone indicated he has had some health problems lately and will be out of town on the date of July 23<sup>rd</sup> due to his daughter's wedding, so he would like to make comment now. The Board concurred but stated they would not make any comment or decision on this matter.

Robert Johnstone indicated he owns Lost Horse Creek Lodge but has it managed locally, as he lives in Oregon. He stated he appreciates the environment and has been a rock

climber in the past. One of the complaints his lodge receives is the bad road conditions. He stated some neighbors prefer the wash board road as it limits traffic. The Forest Service wants to utilize the rock quarry product for the road to Twin Lakes, which will actually help the tourist industry. The manager of the lodge will be present at the public meeting and will bring forth information on tourism and rock climbing which many of his lodging guests come here for. He stated opening up the quarry will not limit his lodge as it will make the road safer and create better safety for his patrons. He stated he has looked at the pros and cons and sees many of the things stated by other residents are not accurate (such as it is a habitat for falcons and wolverines – there are none of those species). He stated there is not going to be any blasting; they will only utilize the rocks that have already tumbled down. He feels this will be in the best interest of the citizens of Ravalli County to open this quarry. He left a package entitled “Industry Trends and Market Analysis” along with a booklet showing pictures of rock climbers.